

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

Claims 1-15 (canceled)

16. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~[[15]]~~ 27, wherein said transgenic plant is tolerant to at least a biotic stress.

17. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~[[15]]~~ 27, wherein said transgenic plant is tolerant to at least a salt-induced stress.

18. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~[[15]]~~ 27, wherein said transgenic plant is tolerant to at least a dehydration-induced stress.

19. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~[[15]]~~ 27, wherein said transgenic plant is tolerant to at least an oxidative stress.

20. (currently amended) The method according to claim ~~[[15]]~~ 27, wherein said transgenic plant is tolerant to at least an osmotic stress.

Claims 21-26 (canceled)

27. (new) A method of producing a transgenic plant, said method comprising introducing and expressing the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 in a plant to produce said transgenic plant which is tolerant to at least a biotic, salt-induced, dehydration-induced, oxidative, or osmotic stress.

28. (new) The method according to claim 27, wherein said nucleotide sequence is contained in an expression cassette and/or a vector.

29. (new) The method according to claim 27, wherein said transgenic plant is tolerant to at least the biotic, salt-induced, dehydration-induced, oxidative, and osmotic stresses.

30. (new) A method of producing a transgenic plant, said method comprising

- (a) selecting a plant for lack of tolerance to a biotic, salt-induced, dehydration-induced, oxidative, or osmotic stress; and
- (b) introducing and expressing a nucleotide sequence encoding SEQ ID NO: 2 in the non-resistant plant to produce said transgenic plant which is tolerant to at least the biotic, salt-induced, dehydration-induced, oxidative, or osmotic stress.

31. (new) The method according to claim 30, wherein said nucleotide sequence is contained in an expression cassette and/or a vector.

32. (new) The method according to claim 30, wherein said transgenic plant is tolerant to at least the biotic, salt-induced, dehydration-induced, oxidative, and osmotic stresses.